

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification by deleting the Sequence Listing previously submitted and replacing it with the Revised Sequence Listing submitted herewith.

Please amend the specification as shown:

Page 1, before paragraph [0001], please insert the following:

Sequence Listing

The instant application contains a "lengthy" Sequence Listing, which has been submitted via CD-R in lieu of a printed paper copy, and is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. Said CD-R, recorded on November 30, 2006, are labeled CRF, "Copy 1" and "Copy 2", respectively, and each contains only one identical 524 Kb file (34950320.APP).

Please delete paragraph [0026] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0026] Fig. 5: Organisation of the ORFs in the 12.7 kb genomic region present in *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv but not present in *M. bovis* ATCC 19210 and *M. bovis* BCG Pasteur. Arrows show the direction of transcription of the putative genes. Positions of EcoRI and PvuII restriction sites are shown. Vertical dashes represent stop codons. The 11 ORFs correspond to the ORFs MTCY277.28 to MTCY277.38/accession number Z79701 -EMBL Nucleotide Sequence Data Library. The junction sequences flanking the polymorphic region are shown **(SEQ ID NOS 754 & 755 are disclosed, respectively, in order of appearance).**

Please delete paragraph [0027] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0027] FIG. 6: Variation in the C-terminal part of a PE-PGRS open reading frame in *M. tuberculosis* strain H37Rv (**SEQ ID NO: 727**) relative to *M. bovis* BCG strain Pasteur (**SEQ ID NO: 728**).

Please delete paragraph [0029] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0029] FIG. 7: Polynucleotide sequence next to the HindIII cloning site in the BAC vector pBeloBAC11 (Kim et al., 1996) used to clone the inserts of the BAC-based mycobacterial genomic DNA library according to the invention (**SEQ ID NO: 29**).

Please delete paragraph [0088] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0088] The location of ORF2 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1696728 and nucleotide at position nt1697420 (**SEQ ID NO: 744**).

Please delete paragraph [0089] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0089] The location of ORF3 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1698096 and nucleotide at position nt1699892. ORF3 probably encodes a protein having the characteristics of a membrane protein (**SEQ ID NO: 745**).

Please delete paragraph [0090] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0090] The location of ORF4 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1700210 and nucleotide at position nt1701088 (**SEQ ID NO: 746**).

Please delete paragraph [0091] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0091] The location of ORF5 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1701293 and nucleotide at position nt1702588. ORF5 encodes a protein having the characteristics of a membrane protein **(SEQ ID NO: 747)**.

Please delete paragraph [0092] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0092] The location of ORF6 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1703072 and nucleotide at position nt1704091. ORF6 encodes a protein having the characteristics of a GDP-D-mannose dehydratase **(SEQ ID NO: 748)**.

Please delete paragraph [0093] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0093] The location of ORF7 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1704091 and nucleotide at position nt1705056. ORF7 encodes a protein having the characteristics of a nucleotide sugar epimerase involved in colanic acid biosynthesis **(SEQ ID NO: 749)**.

Please delete paragraph [0094] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0094] The location of ORF8 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1705056 and nucleotide at position nt1705784 **(SEQ ID NO: 750)**.

Please delete paragraph [0095] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0095] The location of ORF9 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1705808 and nucleotide at position nt1706593. ORF9 encodes a protein having the characteristics of colanic acid biosynthesis glycosyl transferase **(SEQ ID NO: 751)**.

Please delete paragraph [0096] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0096] The location of ORF10 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1706631 and nucleotide at position nt 1707524 **(SEQ ID NO: 752)**.

Please delete paragraph [0097] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0097] The location of ORF11 is comprised between nucleotide at position nt 1707530 and nucleotide at position nt 1708648. ORF11 encodes a protein similar to a spore coat polysaccharide biosynthesis **(SEQ ID NO: 753)**.